

Diversity Task Group Minutes from June 11, 2015 Meeting

Partial list of attendees: C. Carswell, B. Williamson, M. Stein, Y. Degboe, M. Flanagan, B. Harrelson, M. Harrison, F. Mohtadi, A. Nicolay, rep from Spy Pond, 4 members of Nepalese community

Discussion of hate incident at Spy Pond. Explanation of incident and what was done. Members do not understand why it took Rapid Response and others so long to deal with situation. Bonie deferred to AHRC, which is in charge of response, but felt someone should contact the victim and asked who would do or had done this. Group thought DTG should contact AHRC and ask for a meeting; thought DTG should write a letter to AHRC expressing concern about the slowness of response and asking what protocol should be. Farjam suggested the high school Principal should involve students in discussions. Action: Claire to contact AHRC, Bonie and Mary to write letter.

Community Read initiative: Arlington Reads Together - The Library director said the first book selection group meeting will take place early July to discuss selection of a book for Arlington Reads and suggested the Task Group provide a rep. Andrea is hoping for an adult book as the last selections have been youth titles. She will set a July date for us to send the DTG rep. This furthers our partnership with the Arlington library.

Four members of the Nepalese community joined our meeting to talk about the need for literature and especially children's literature in their language. They then talked directly with the Library director to explore the possibilities of doing this. Andrea explained the inter-library loan process that can help people get books in their languages. We talked in general about the need to have Arlington Library reflect the diversity of the Arlington community. Discussed having a sub-committee of reps from different countries suggest books. Discussed the possibility of featuring various cultures and ideas on the emerging DTG's website.

Brooks presented the DTG's website as a framework for us to discuss its content and form. The general purpose of the website is to be a resource for the community relating to groups and activities that promote diversity in the community but also to act as a call to action. Awareness and action going hand in hand. Information is needed under each bullet point which appears on the website.

We decided to further work on the website before asking for help from a professional consultant in the field, suggested by Spy Pond rep. When the essentials of the Website are taken care of, we can upgrade. Mary agreed to ask Vision 2020 for funds for the website. A modern and user friendly website will cost probably around \$120 on an annual basis for its upkeep. This will also allow for a website with additional capabilities for specialized presentation of materials and for the possibility of adding plug ins. The suggestion was made then to share the site with PTOs, the Superintendent and monthly magazines. Young people can be encouraged to interview various cultural and other groups in the community for inclusion in the website. It was suggested that the website be done in two weeks. Yawa and Brooks agreed to work on it.